

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 21, 2004. Claims 1, 3 to 6, 8 to 11 and 13 to 21 remain in the application, of which Claims 1, 6, 11, 16, 18 and 20 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3 to 6, 8 to 11 and 13 to 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,556,875 (Nagasaka) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,261,044 (Dev). It is noted that Nagasaka has an effective U.S. filing date after the priority date of the subject application. Accordingly, Nagasaka could be overcome by the filing a sworn translation of the priority document, so long as each and every rejected claim is fully supported by the priority document. Applicant has chosen not to submit a sworn translation at this time since it is firmly believed that the claims, as currently amended, are allowable over any permissible combination of Nagasaka and Dev for at least the reasons set forth below. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns displaying updated configuration information of a network device next to an icon. According to the invention, device information is acquired from various image processing devices connected to a network, and it is recognized whether or not configuration information of the device has been updated, based on the acquired device information. Icons corresponding to a plurality of image processing functions of the devices are displayed on a display, and updated configuration information is displayed in proximity to a selected icon in a case where the configuration information has been updated in regard to an image processing function corresponding to

an icon selected by a user from among the displayed icons. As a result, it is possible to display the configuration of a device without the need to display various settings screens.

Referring specifically to the claims, amended independent Claim 1 is a network terminal apparatus, comprising management means for managing an identifier of each image processing function and configuration information concerning a plurality of image processing devices for implementing each image processing function as settings information, search means for acquiring, via a network, device information concerning each of various image processing devices connected to the network, recognition means for recognizing whether or not the configuration information has been updated, based on the acquired device information, icon display means for displaying icons each corresponding to each image processing function in accordance with the recognition by the recognition means, and settings information display means for displaying updated configuration information in proximity to a selected icon in a case where the configuration information has been updated in regard to an image processing function corresponding to an icon selected by a user from among the displayed icons.

Amended independent Claims 6 and 11 are method and computer-readable medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 1.

Amended independent Claim 16 includes features along the lines of Claim 1, but is more specifically directed to a network terminal apparatus, comprising management means for managing an identifier of each image processing function and configuration information concerning a plurality of image processing devices for implementing each image processing function as settings information, search means for acquiring, via a network, device information concerning each of various image processing

devices connected to the network, recognition means for recognizing whether or not the configuration information has been updated, based on the acquired device information, icon display means for displaying icons each corresponding to each image processing function in accordance with the recognition by the recognition means, designating means for allowing a user to designate, in order to select, a desired icon from among the displayed icons, and settings information display means for, when an icon is designated for a predetermined period of time, displaying updated configuration information determined by the information acquired by the search means in regard to an image processing function corresponding to the designated icon.

Amended independent Claims 18 and 20 are method and computer-readable medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 16.

The applied art, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 1, 6, 11, 16, 18 and 20. In particular, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of displaying updated configuration information in proximity to a selected icon corresponding to an image processing function in a case where the configuration information has been updated in regard to an image processing function corresponding to an icon selected by a user from among displayed icons.

Nagasaka is merely seen to disclose that a user can form a composite device (e.g., a copying machine) by dragging a scanner icon onto a printer icon, thereby forming a correlation between devices and generating a copying machine icon. Accumulated results are maintained for each set of devices that have been used to generate a composite device as described above. To determine what devices have been used to form the composite

device, a user selects the copying machine icon with a mouse, whereby a pop-up menu 490 showing the accumulated results is displayed (i.e., names of devices constituting the composite device are displayed). Thus, the accumulated results 131 merely identify which types of devices form a composite device (i.e., identify whether the device is a scanner, printer, facsimile, etc.). However, the accumulated results do not include updated configuration information of any of the devices. Thus, for example, if the configuration of a device forming the composite apparatus is changed (e.g., in Printer A, an A4 size paper tray is replaced with a LETTER size paper tray), the user would not know that the change had occurred from the displayed accumulated results. Moreover, there is nothing in Nagasaka to indicate that after the composite device has been formed, configuration information of each device is acquired to determine whether any updates have occurred such that updates can be displayed. In fact, even if Nagasaka could somehow be seen to acquire updated device configuration information from the devices, the accumulated results displayed as seen in Figures 30 and 31 would not change. That is, Printer A would still be listed as Printer A, with any updated configuration information being transparent to the user. Accordingly, Nagasaka is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 1, 6, 11, 16, 18 and 20.

Dev is not seen to add anything to overcome the deficiencies of Nagasaka. In this regard, Dev is merely seen to disclose a technique for acquiring device information from a device over a network. However, Dev is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of displaying updated configuration information, acquired from devices on a network, in proximity to a selected icon corresponding to an image processing function in a case where the configuration information has been updated in regard to an image

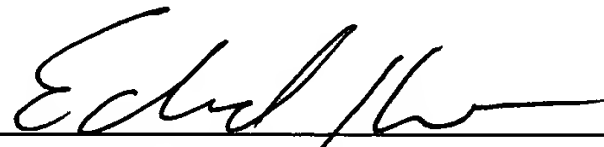
processing function corresponding to an icon selected by a user from among displayed icons.

In view of the foregoing, amended independent Claims 1, 6, 11, 16, 18 and 20 are believed to be allowable over Nagasaka and Dev.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edward A. Kmett', is written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicant
Edward A. Kmett
Registration No. 42,746

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-2200
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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